

What is E-rate?

- Federal program that provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the United States (and U.S. territories) to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.
- Funded through the Universal Service fee charged to companies that provide telecommunications services.

Who runs the E-rate program?

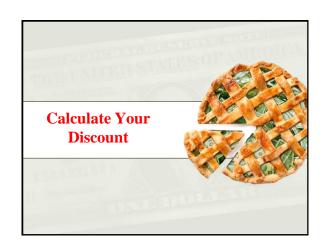
- FCC Federal Communications
 Commission, an independent U.S.
 government agency, oversees the E-rate program sets rules and policies
- USAC Universal Service Administrative Company, a not-for-profit, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the E-rate program
- SLD Schools and Libraries Division is the part of USAC with responsibility for E-rate

Who can apply?

- Libraries and library systems
 - · Must be eligible for LSTA funds
 - In Nebraska all public libraries are eligible
- Schools and school districts
- Consortia groups of eligible entities that band together to aggregate demand and negotiate lower prices

Funding Year

- Commitments for E-rate are made by Funding Year, which runs from July 1 through the following June 30
 - FY 2020 is July 1, 2020 June 30, 2021
- Funding available:
 - +\$3.99 billion, adjusted annually for inflation



Discounts

How much of a discount can my library receive?

- Discounts range from 20% to 90%
- Discount for a library depends on:
 - Percentage of K-12 students eligible for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in the school district in which the library is located - can't include PreK
 - Urban or rural location of the library

Calculate Your Discount – 3 Steps

- Find your NSLP data on the Nebraska DOE website: https://www.education.ne.gov/dataservices/data-reports/
- 2. Check your Urban/Rural Status in the Lookup Tool
 - https://sltools.universalservice.org/portalexternal/urbanRuralLookup/
 - Based on 2010 U.S Census data. The FCC defines Urban areas as areas with populations equal or greater then 25,000. Rural encompasses all territory not in an urban area.
- 3. Use the **Discount Matrix** to determine your discount.

INCOME Measured by % of students eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	CATEGORY ONE (C1)		CATEGORY TWO (C2)	
	URBAN Discount	RURAL Discount	URBAN Discount	RURAL Discount
Less than 1%	20%	25%	20%	25%
1% to 19%	40%	50%	40%	50%
20% to 34%	50%	60%	50%	60%
35% to 49%	60%	70%	60%	70%
50% to 74%	80%	80%	80%	80%
75% to 100%	90%	90%	85%	85%



What is "E-rate-able"?

The FCC publishes the **ESL - Eligible Services List** each year.

The list can be found on the SLD website in PDF format:

http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/ beforeyoubegin/eligible-serviceslist.aspx

Eligible Services List

- Category One services providing high-speed connectivity to the building
- Category Two services providing high-speed connectivity throughout the building

Category One

Digital transmission services and Internet access services – basically anything that provides high speed broadband.

- · Broadband over Power Lines
- Cable Modem
- DSL
- DS-1, DS-2, DS-3
- Ethernet
- Fiber (Lit and Dark)
- · Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)
- · Satellite Services
- T-1, T-3, Fractional T-1 or T-3
- Wireless Service (e.g. microwave)

Fiber Options

- Lit Fiber: Fiber-based broadband service, owned and managed by service provider. Customer pays a recurring fee to use the network.
- Dark Fiber: Customer leases a portion of a providerowned and maintained fiber network and pays to have that fiber lit (turned on) in order to use that fiber.
 - Program rules require applicants considering a Dark Fiber solution for their connectivity must also request bids for a Lit Fiber solution - Use the "Leased Dark Fiber and Leased Lit Fiber" drop-down option in EPC when submitting the FCC Form 470.

Special Construction

Special construction refers to the upfront, non-recurring costs associated with the installation of new fiber to or between eligible entities.

- Special construction charges eligible for Category One support consist of three components:
 - 1. construction of network facilities;
 - 2. design and engineering; and
 - 3. project management.
- Special construction may begin six months prior to the July 1 start of the funding year – so, after January 1

Category One – Voice Services

- No longer eligible as of FY 2019
- · Focus on providing support for Broadband
 - To close the Wi-Fi gap
 - To make E-rate dollars go farther
 - Discount rate was reduced by 20 percentage points each funding year, until all voice services were completely phased out.
 - Working so far!
 - Enough money to fund all applications demand did not outstrip available funds.

Category Two

- Category Two includes equipment and services needed to bring broadband into and throughout libraries.
- Includes Internal Connections,
 Managed Internal Broadband Services,
 and Basic Maintenance of Internal
 Connections.

Category Two

Eligible Internal Connections

- · Access points
- Antennas
- Cabling
- Caching
- Firewalls
- Network switches
- Routers
- Racks
- Uninterruptible Power Supply/Battery Backup
- Wireless LAN Controllers
- Improvements, upgrades and software necessary to support eligible broadband internal connections components

TOWARD GIGABIT LIBRARIES

*m*pfmatatti

TOOLKIT

Category Two

Managed Internal Broadband Services (eg. Managed Wi-Fi)

- · Services provided by a third party
 - Operation
 - Management
 - And/or monitoring of eligible broadband internal connection components
- The third party may manage the library's equipment or provide the equipment as part of a lease.

Category Two

Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections

- Support for basic maintenance of eligible internal connections such as
 - Repair and upkeep of hardware
 - Wire and cable maintenance
 - Basic tech support
 - Configuration changes
- Support for BMIC is limited to actual work performed under the contract

Miscellaneous

Could fall into either Category One or Two

- Taxes, surcharges and other similar reasonable charges
- Lease fees to rent or lease eligible components
- Shipping charges
- Training
- Installation and configuration
 - *New* Installation may be provided by a third party – previously it had to be part of the contract when you purchased the equipment.
 Now you can have someone else install the equipment.

Broadband Toolkit

Toward Gigabit Libraries Toolkit - Designed for small, rural, and tribal libraries with limited IT support.



- Learn about your broadband infrastructure and IT environment by answering guided questions
 - Technology Inventory
 - Broadband Services and Operational Support
 - Funding Opportunities
- · Broadband Improvement Plan
- https://www.internet2.edu/researchsolutions/community-projects/toward-gigabit-libraries/

Category Two Budgets

Category Two Budgets

What are Category Two budgets?

- USAC calculates a five-year budget for Category Two products and services for each library.
- The library can receive discounts on the cost of C2 services up to its C2 budget amount.
- Products and services ordered in excess of an entity's C2 budget will not receive E-rate discounts.

Category Two Budgets

How much is my budget?

For FY 2019, the **pre-discount** budget for a library is calculated by multiplying the total area in square feet – including all areas enclosed by the outer walls of the library and occupied by the library – by \$2.45, with a minimum of \$9,793.04.

- C2 budget multiplier is adjusted each year for inflation.
- Budgets are recalculated every year based on current square footage, and can go up or down.

Category Two Budgets

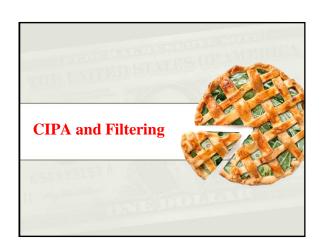
How much is my budget?

Example: Your library is 3,500 square feet.

- 3,500 square feet x \$2.45 per square foot = \$8,575.
- However, there is a \$9,793.04 minimum budget.
 Since the result of the calculation is less than \$9,793.04, the pre-discount budget is \$9,793.04.
- At a 50% discount rate, the library will receive \$4,896.52 in E-rate funds to spend on Category Two services for the next 5 years: \$9,793.04 x 0.5
 \$4,896.52.

Category Two Budget Pilot

- 2019 was the last year of the 5 year budget pilot.
- Still waiting for official release of FCC order on the future of Cat 2 budgets.
- But, draft states 'we now propose to make the category two budget approach permanent'



CIPA/NCIPA Compliance

(Children's Internet Protection Act)

Compliance with CIPA required for:

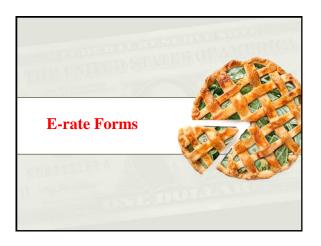
- · Internet access
- · Internal connections

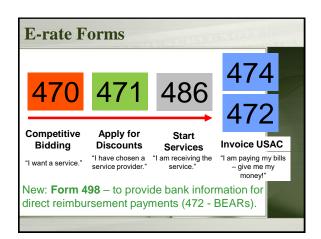
CIPA requires:

- Internet Safety Policy
- Technology Protection Measure
- · Public Notice and Meeting/Hearing

SLD information on CIPA:

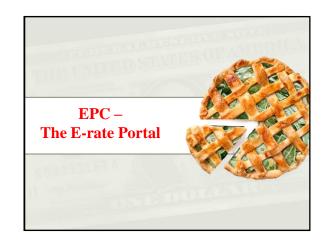
http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step05/cipa.aspx

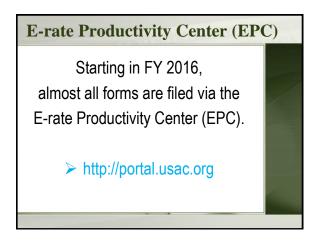




Libraries must retain copies of any E-rate paperwork that supports current year for 10 years after the last date of service. FY 2020: this is at least June 30, 2031. E.g., Contract from 2010 for recurring services, used to support FY 2020 FRNs, must be kept until at least June 30, 2031. Exception: CIPA documentation – keep forever. Documents may be retained in electronic or paper format.

Pocument Retention You must retain: FCC Forms and letters received from USAC (e.g., FCC Forms 470, 471, 486) Any other USAC correspondence. Copies of bids. Contracts/service agreements signed with service providers. Correspondence with service providers regarding bidding process. Copies of bid matrix or decision process for selecting winning bid. Proof of delivery of the service and/or equipment.

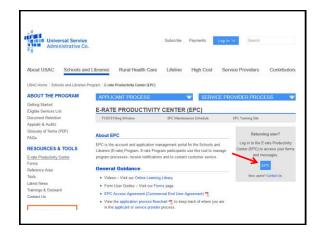


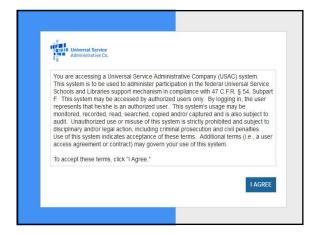


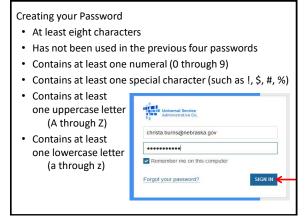
One online location for all program activities. Complete and certify program forms Check the status of applications Receive reminders and notifications Respond to PIA questions Ask USAC questions



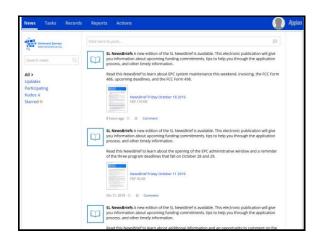


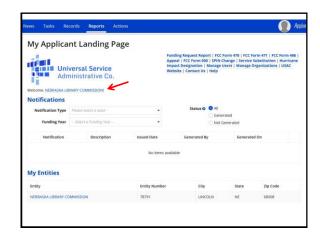


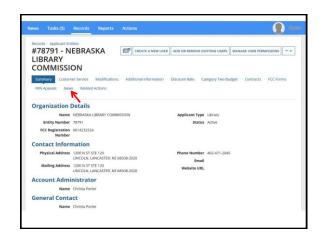




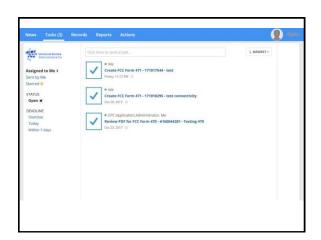






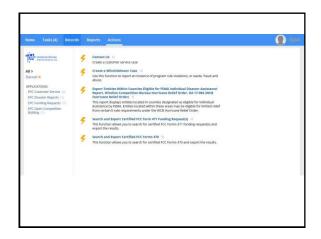


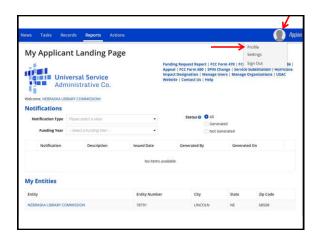


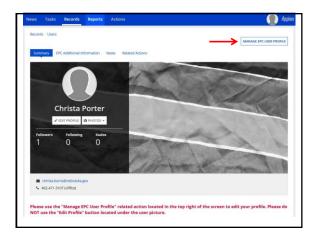


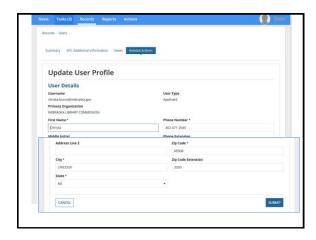


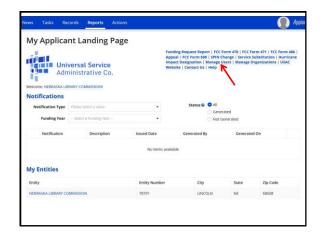


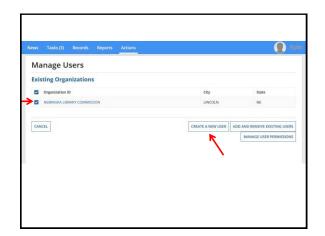


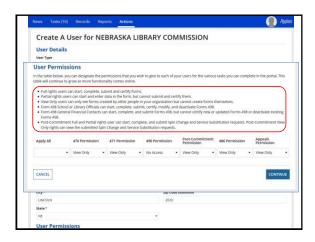


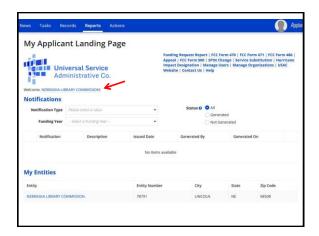


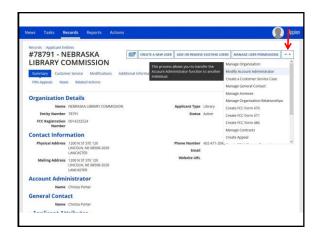


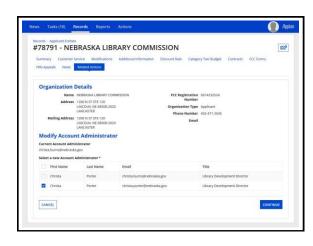


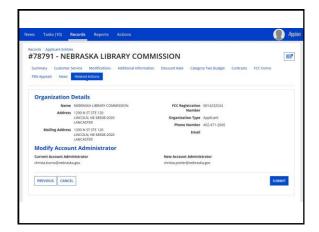


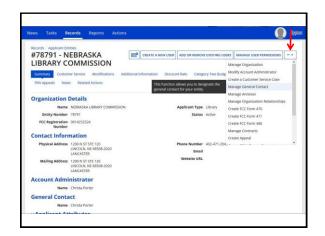


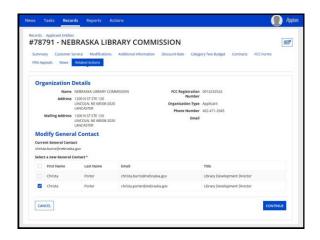


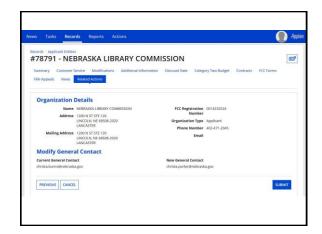


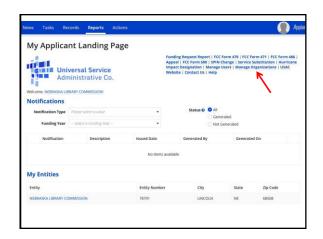


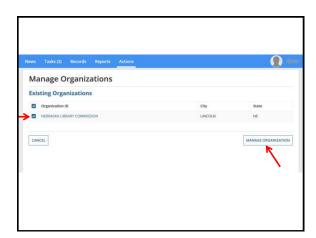


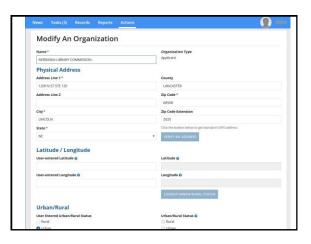


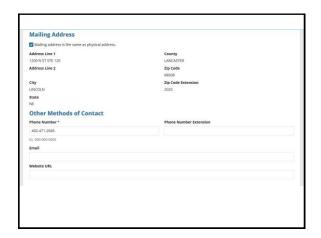


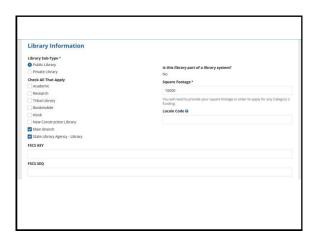


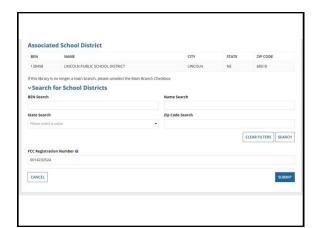




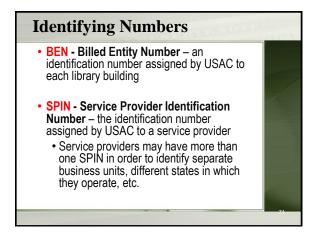






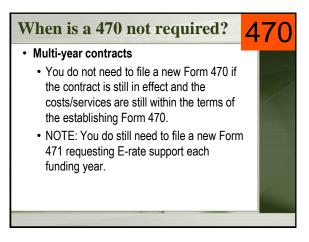


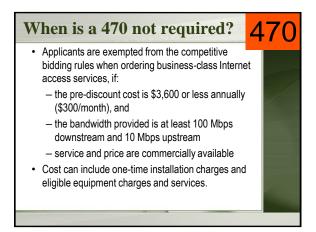
• Persons and entities doing business with the FCC must obtain an FCC RN and supply it when doing business with the FCC • To look up your library's FCC RN, or request one, go to: > https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do

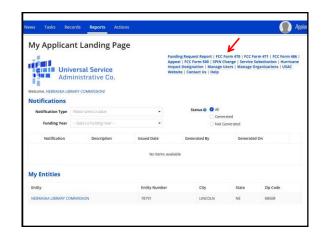


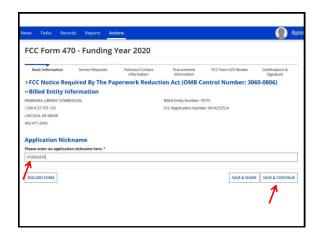


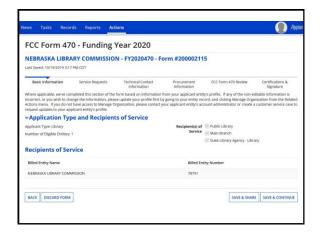


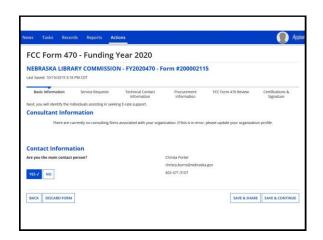


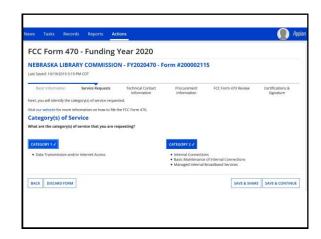


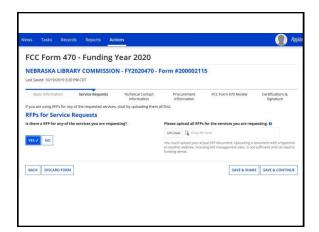


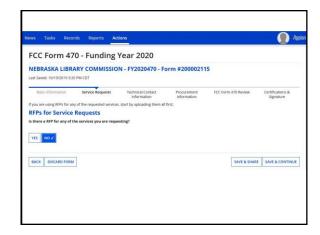


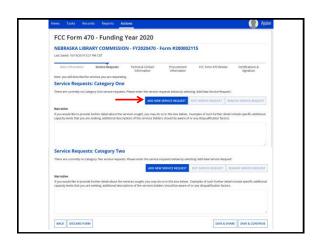


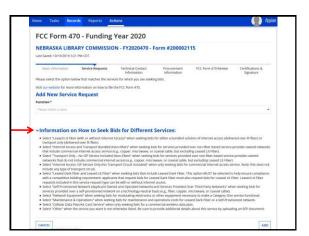


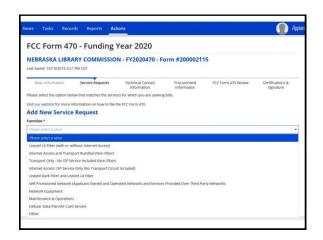


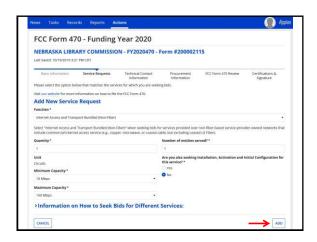


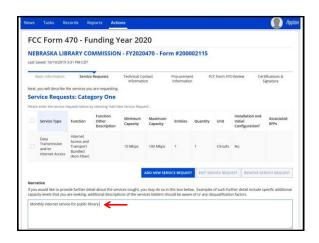


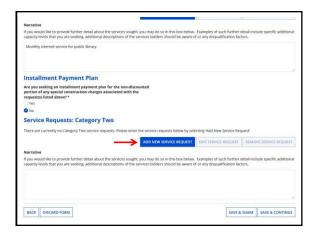


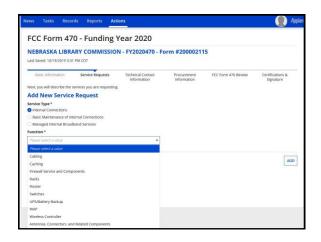


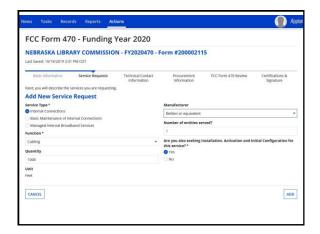


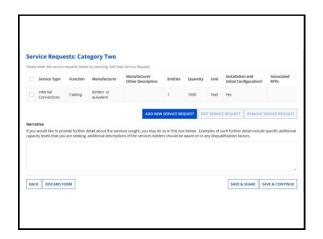


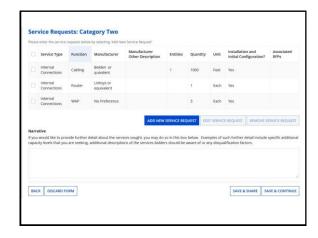


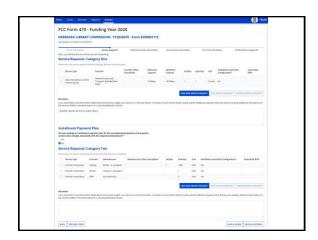




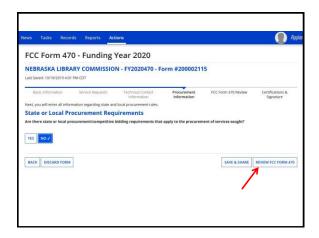


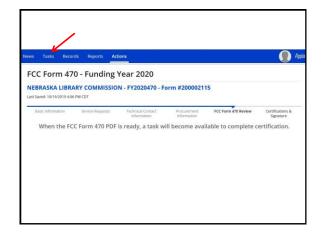


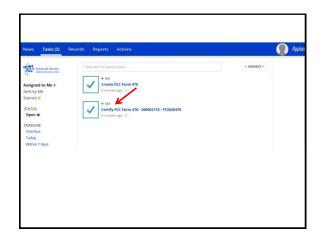


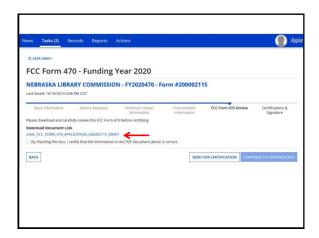


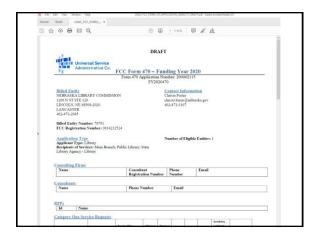


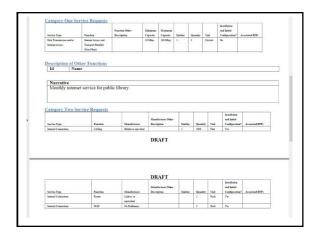




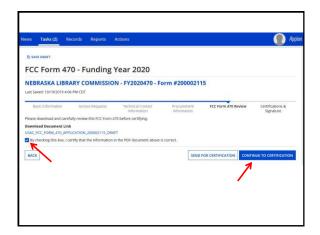


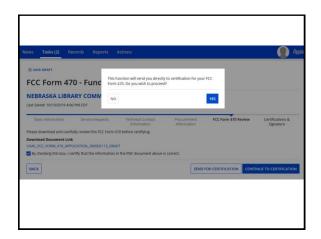








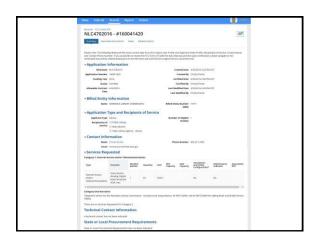












Receipt Notification Letter - RNL Letter issued by USAC that summarizes the information provided in the Form 470 Applicant can use the RNL to make corrections or changes Gives the Allowable Contract Date (ACD) – the date 28 days after the Form 470 is posted to the USAC website





What is Competitive Bidding?

- Competitive bidding is a formal process to choose the vendors/service providers who provide your products and services
- Must last at least 28 days from the date you submit your 470 – Allowable Contract Date (ACD)
- Service providers read your documents and bid on your services.
- Compare the offers you receive.
- Select the most cost-effective bid using price of the eligible products and services as the primary factor

Competitive bidding

- · Must have a fair and open bidding process
 - All vendors are treated the same; have access to same information
 - Vendors cannot be involved in your 470
- · Must choose most cost-effective bid
 - Cost must be primary factor
 - Fully document your bid review process and any decision(s)
 - · Record dates of any decisions, actions taken, etc.

Competitive bidding Bid Evaluation Matrix (sample) Points Available Vendor 1 Price of the ELIGIBLE goods and services 20 0 Prior experience w/ vendor 20 20 Prices for ineligible services, 25 20 15 products & fees Flexible Invoicing: 472 or 474 15 0 15 15 Environmental objectives Local or in state vendor 5 5 5 5 Total 100 65 68 92

Existing Contract?

- · Applicant has a current contract for service.
- To bring the contract into compliance, post an FCC Form 470 for the services.
- Wait 28 days and then use existing contract as one of your bid responses. You must then evaluate that contract against any other bids you may receive.
- If the existing contract is the winning bid, the E-rate contract is now eligible for funding for the upcoming funding year.

City Pays for the Library's Internet?

- · Use Cost Allocation.
 - Separate the library's internet usage from the rest of the city's internet usage.
 - Submit an estimate of the percent of use at the library, or provide actual statistical information.
 - You only apply for E-rate on the library's portion of the internet that is paid for by your city.

One Bid or Zero Bids?

- If you receive only one bid, and it is cost-effective, you may accept it.
 - Document your decision with a memo or email for your records.
- · If you did not receive any bids, you can solicit bids.
 - Reach out to vendors in the area.
 - Ask your current service provider to submit a bid or to send you an email stating that they are willing to continue to provide service at your current level and cost.

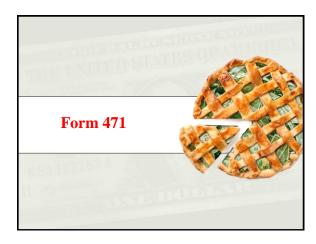
Competitive bidding

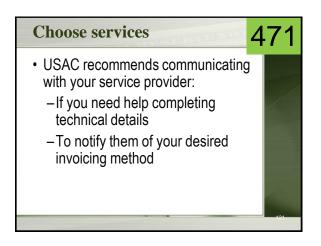
On or after your **Allowable Contract Date** (**ACD**), close the competitive bidding process.

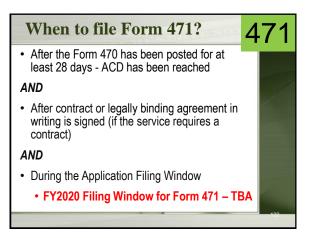
Then you can:

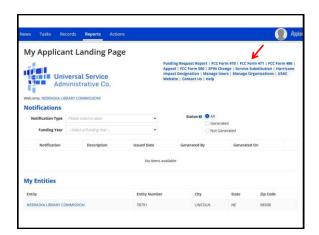
- Evaluate the bids received
- Choose your service provider(s)
- Sign a contract or legally binding agreement
- Post a Form 471 BUT, only during the Application Filing Window

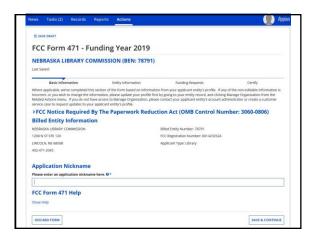


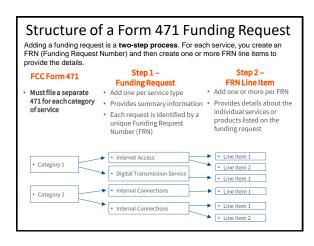




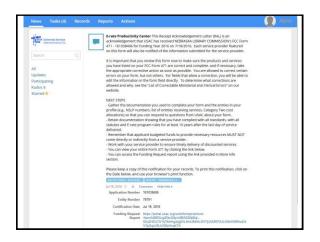


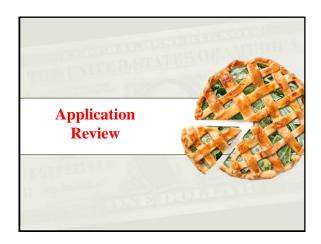






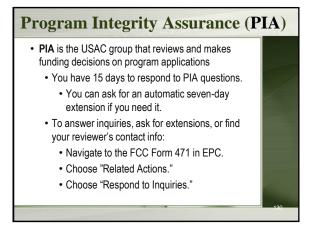
Letter issued by USAC to the applicant and service provider that summarizes the information provided in the Form 471 Applicant can use the RAL to make corrections or changes until USAC issues the Funding Commitment Decision Letter Applicants can request funding reductions, but not funding increases.

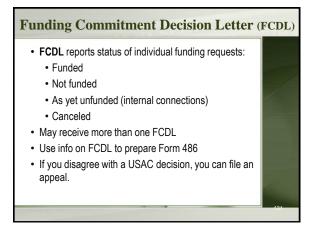




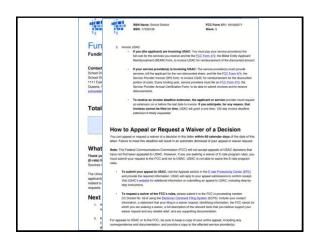
USAC reviews your Form(s) 471 to: - Check the eligibility of the libraries and their discount levels - Verify that the services you requested are eligible for discounts - Give you an opportunity to make allowable corrections to your form - In some cases, ask for additional verification

of your compliance with program rules



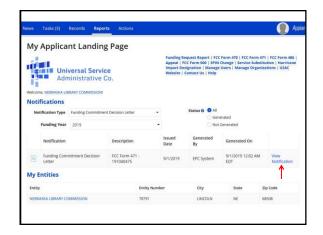






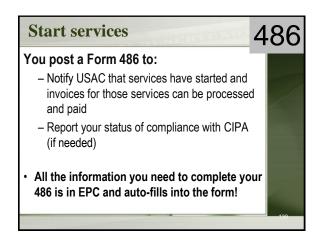


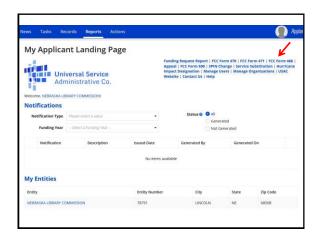


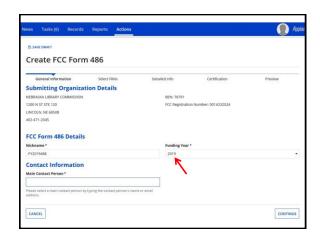


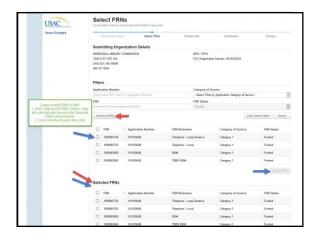






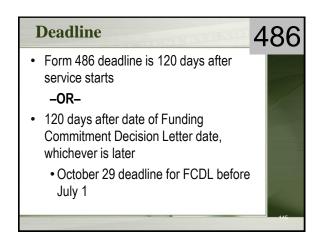


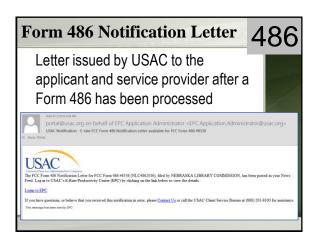




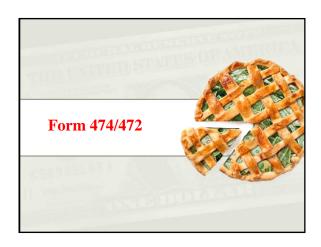


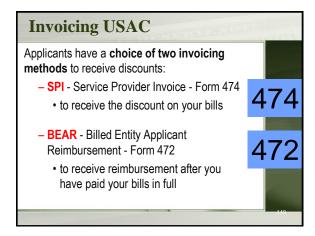


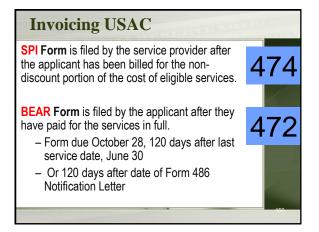


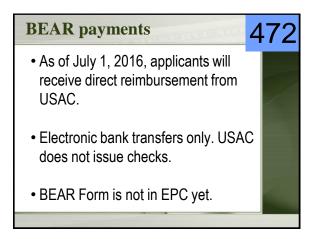




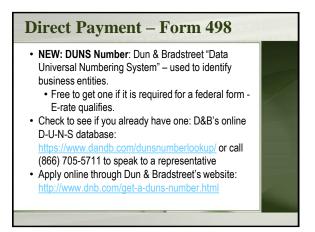


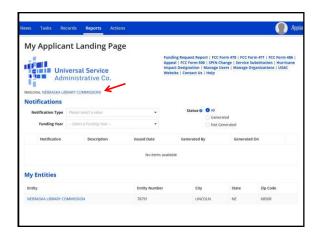


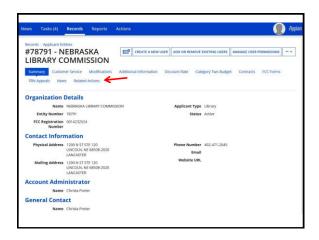


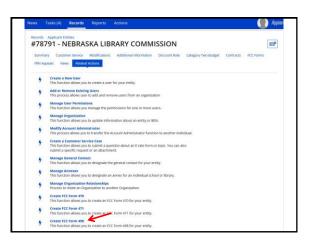


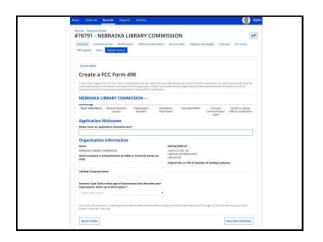




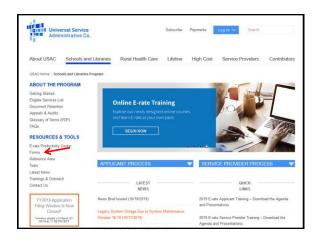


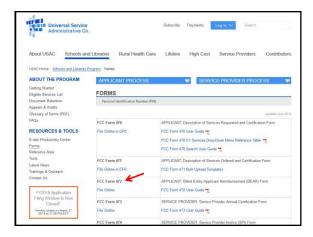




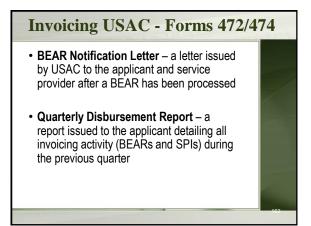


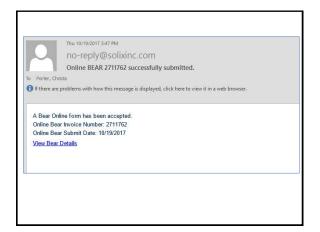


















Christa Porter Library Development Director, State E-rate Coordinator for Nebraska Public Libraries Nebraska Library Commission 800-307-2665 christa.porter@nebraska.gov http://nlc.nebraska.gov/erate/